

Serbs Back of 'Alphabet War,' Say N.Y. Bulgars

Ban on 'R' and Double 'E' Called Scheme to Merge Nationality of Bulgaria With That of Neighbor

Principle Is What Hurts

Letters No More Cause of Revolt Than the Tea Tax in American Revolution

The uproar in Bulgaria which has followed the resignation of two cabinet ministers and now threatens the country with civil war, is not caused by the elimination of two letters from the Bulgarian alphabet, any more than the tea tax was responsible for the American Revolution, according to members of the Bulgarian colony in New York. As has been said in other connections—it is the principle of the thing.

Dispatches from Sofia tell of the serious disturbances which have followed the official decision of Premier Stamboulliski's government to dispense with the use of the letter "r" and the double "e." In February, when the edict was announced, students staged a public demonstration in the capital city of Sofia, which was broken up by the police, with considerable damage to the clothing and heads of the demonstrators.

Faculty Goes on Strike
Early in March the faculty of Sofia University went on strike in opposition to the proposed change, and mass meetings throughout the country supported the educators in their protest. An intelligent-bourgeois conflict, begun which apparently reached its climax this week when M. Tourtchakoff, Finance Minister, and M. Omartchevski, Minister of Education, handed their portfolios to the Premier and joined the protesting faction.

The real reason, according to local students of Central European affairs, is not the letter "r" and the double "e" at all, but rather whether Bulgaria shall continue to be Bulgaria, proud, self-dependent and aloof from the other Balkan states, new and old, or whether she shall permit her nationality and her language to be merged with that of Serbia, her neighbor, ancient rival, and bitter enemy during the war.

"There are two parties in Bulgaria," Professor Michael Pupin, of the Department of Foreign Languages at Columbia University, explained yesterday. "One of those parties believes that the best interests of the country are served by bringing Bulgaria into line with the other Central European states, the other insisting that Bulgaria shall maintain her own national identity and bitterly opposing all attempts to align her with Serbia. The government's action in eliminating the letters 'r' and the double 'e' is designed to further its policy of co-ordinating Bulgaria with the other neighbor states."

Letters Not in Serbian Alphabet
"The Serbian alphabet does not contain the letters in question, and, in fact, these letters do not figure in the spoken Bulgarian language, although

they have certain significances when written or printed. Their use to indicate whether the preceding consonant should be given the hard or soft pronunciation is historic. Opponents of the change, therefore, insist that in eliminating these two letters Bulgaria is resigning her ancient heritage for a mess of modern pottage. In short, those in Bulgaria who hate the Serbs are opposed to the change, while those who are friendly toward Serbia are in favor of it."

Apparently the majority are for it. At any rate the Premier has reorganized his cabinet and continues in office, according to the latest advices to reach New York, and the Bulgarian Parliament has undertaken to elect a deputy equivalent to nearly \$4,000, with three months in jail, on the presumptions anti-Serb journalist, author or private correspondent who uses the forbidden letters in printed matter.

Jersey Senate President Opposes Ramapo Dam

Bergen County Road Head Joins Mackay in Protesting Against Valley Project

William B. Mackay Jr., of Bergen County, President of the New Jersey Senate, wrote yesterday to the State Water Supply Commission protesting against the dam across the Ramapo Valley, near Oakland, which has been authorized to make a reservoir for Bayonne.

J. Ernest Thier, Supervisor of Roads in Bergen County, pointed out that the loss of taxes on property which would be submerged, much of it consisting of country estates, would impose a burden on the county and that Bergen County, developing as rapidly as it was, should have been permitted to retain its own watersheds against a time of need.

"Never having made a study of the water supply situation of the state," said Mr. Thier, "I am not familiar with conditions, but it appears to me that the city of Bayonne is following the lines of least resistance by coming to Bergen for its water, when I honestly feel that the Board of Conservation and Development should have told Bayonne in plain words that their water supply must come from sections of the state which will not develop very rapidly. I have reference to the counties of Morris, Warren and Sussex. Bergen County's supply must be held in reserve for Bergen, as it is the fastest growing county in the state, if not in the country, and in justice to ourselves and the very name under which this commission exists, we should be compelled to consider that which Bergen County has and needs."

Governor Edward I. Edwards, at his office in Jersey City, said Bayonne has been paying about \$20 a million gallons for water from the East Jersey Water Company, a private concern, and that, as the company contract runs out in 1929, Bayonne merely sought to protect itself against high water rates after expiration of the contract.

Road Warns Feminine Workers If They Marry They Must Quit
SPRINGFIELD, Mo., March 25.—The St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad Company to-day announced at the general offices here that in the future women employees of the company who marry will be expected to resign, and in the event they fail to tender their resignations their services will be discontinued by the company officials.

Court Permits Operation Of Insolvent Oil Firm

Decision in Island Company Case Influenced by New Field Prospects

A conference between receivers and creditors of the Island Oil and Transport Company before Judge John C. Knox in the Federal Court yesterday authorizing the former to continue business for at least two weeks and to use for that purpose whatever funds they received. The order may be revoked at any time on one day's notice, and will be reviewed April 6.

The method of which the oil concern operated. The Island Oil and Transport Company functions merely as a holding corporation, owning almost all the stock of the Island Oil Marketing Company, which handles distribution and manages two Mexican companies which produce and pipe the oil. The bills for all four concerns are paid by the marketing company, which is in the hands of a receiver and has creditors other than those of the parent corporation, who have objected to the disbursement of its income to pay the bills of the three other companies.

Judge Knox, before signing the order to continue disbursement according to the plan established before the receivership, declared some action must be taken to keep the interlocking organization afloat, especially since a new field whose successful development would make the Island Oil and Transport Company solvent may be opened within a week.

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Fireman Killed on Day Set to Announce Troth

Crushed by Own Engine, He Sends Love to Sweetheart; Friends Offer Blood

Frederick Brandt, a Brooklyn fireman, who was run over and fatally injured early yesterday by a combination ten-ton engine and tender of his own company, had planned to attend a party last night at which his engagement to a Brooklyn girl was to be announced. Brandt died several hours after the accident at the Brooklyn Hospital.

Brandt was a member of Engine Company 208. As the engine was turning toward the curb in York Street, near Hudson Avenue, Brooklyn, Brandt jumped off, slipped, and fell under the left rear wheel. Fireman Wesley Dunlap, John Gallagher and James Donahue were the first to reach him.

"I'm done, boys," he gasped. "Give my regards to the boys and my love to my family and my sweetheart." It was at first thought that Brandt might

be saved by a blood transfusion and all eight members of his company volunteered. Doctors decided, however, that his condition was hopeless. Brandt lived at 146 Woodbine Street, Ridgewood, and had been in the department two years. He served on a submarine chaser during the war and was a well known amateur boxer.

Blind Peruvian Artist Who Killed Wife Is Declared Sane

ROME, March 25.—The report of alienists, concluding that Luis Ignatius Mesones was mentally accountable for his acts, was examined to-day by the court which is trying Mesones, a blind Peruvian painter, for the murder of his wife, Bace Simonetti, in 1920. Mesones last year admitted having killed his wife, but his counsel pleaded insanity, and he subsequently was transferred to an asylum.

The reading of the alienists' report followed a dramatic recital by the mother of the murdered woman of how her daughter had been wooed by the Peruvian and of her later disappearance.

School Teacher, 84, Sues Landlords for Damages

Four Unjustified Arrests at the Instigation of Defendants Alleged in Plea

Emma M. Monk, eighty-four years old, who was a teacher in private and public schools of Brooklyn for sixty-two years, has filed papers in the Brooklyn Supreme Court in four actions to recover \$35,000 damages from her former landlords, James and Elizabeth Yearwood, of 428 Carlton Avenue, Brooklyn. Miss Monk, who now resides at 408 Classon Avenue, bases her actions on the humiliations she was forced to endure by her several arrests at the alleged instigation of the Yearwoods.

The first action is based on her arrest early in 1920 on the complaint of James Yearwood, charging that she used abusive language and acted in a disorderly manner. The charge was dismissed by Magistrate Liota. The second action is based on her arrest on March 25, 1921, on the complaint of Mrs. Yearwood, who asserted that she

was an objectionable tenant and "kept the premises in a dirty condition." The charge was dismissed by Judge McMahon. The third arrest, on which the third action is based, occurred on May 18 last. Mrs. Yearwood, who alleged that Miss Monk had threatened to kill her, was the complainant. This charge, as the others, Miss Monk says, was dismissed. Miss Monk in her fourth action says that she was arrested on June 25 last and that Mrs. Yearwood "swore I had threatened to kill her. She added on this occasion that I called her a devil."

Girl Baudit Ties Woman in Bed and Ransacks Room

LYNN, Mass., March 25.—A girl bandit, masked and armed with a revolver, stepped through a window into the bedroom where Mrs. Arthur Matrona lay sick early to-day, bound with the woman with the bedclothes and ransacked the bureau drawers. She escaped with \$50 while other members of the family were asleep in adjoining rooms.

The police obtained a description of the young woman from a baker who saw her leave the house.

Traveling Arsenal Caught Two in Unregistered Auto Had Revolvers and Cartridges

GREENWICH, Conn., March 25.—August Rabolini, of 425 Pleasant Avenue, New York, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment by Judge Mead here to-day and ordered to pay a fine of \$100, and costs for illegal possession of weapons. Joseph Cassino, who was with him when arrested, was held for investigation.

Motorcycle Patrolmen Cullen and Lipsitt, sighted the pair yesterday on Boston Post Road near General Israel Putnam Hill, overtook them after a chase and ordered them to the police station because their car had no certificate of registration.

Instead of obeying, the two men sped in the opposite direction. The patrolmen overhauled them again and conducted them to the police station. On the way Rabolini is said to have drawn a revolver. It was taken from him, and then three more revolvers and a supply of cartridges were found in the car.



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